GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3527
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2001
ADULT EDUCATION
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "India and Bharat digital divide worries" appearing in 'The Times of India' dated 22.07.2001;

(b) If so, whether Director General of UNESCO has criticized India for its total failure in adult education and also said that India must no longer except to receive UNESCO hand out to provide higher education;

(c) If so, the steps taken or being taken by Government on the issues raised by the Director-General of UNESCO; and

(d) If so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Director-General, UNESCO was on Official Visit to India from 22-25 July, . During his visit he had a meeting with HRM on 23.07.2001 at which Minister of Tourism & Culture/Senior Officers of Various Ministries /Departments concerned with the subjects in the field of competence of UNESCO were also present. During that meeting DG referred to the news item and clarified that he was quoted out of context. He recalled that he had had words of praise for India in his address at the recent meeting on the anniversary of the Dakar Conference and reiterated his views regarding India's progress in the field of basic education.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.